



STATE REPRESENTATIVE

TOM CAMPBELL

(R) 2nd Legislative District



REPORT ON THE 2005 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

May 2005

*Serving the citizens of Graham,
Spanaway, Roy, McKenna,
Eatonville, Orting, Puyallup's
South Hill, Fort Lewis, Yelm
and Rainier*

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HOUSE COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS:

Health Care *(Vice-Chairman)*

Transportation

Judiciary

Joint Select Committee
on Veteran's & Military Affairs

Dear Friends:

The 105-day session ended on time April 24, and accomplished a great deal with passage of some of the 2nd District issues that I'm most passionate about. I am so pleased that the Legislature responded to our critical need to fight the **illegal manufacture of methamphetamines in our neighborhoods**. We passed a great bill that is highlighted inside this newsletter.

Another major accomplishment for our district is the approval of some **\$133 million for a number of transportation projects in our district**, including \$33 million to start the Yelm Loop Highway, \$15 million for the long-planned Cross-Base Highway; and another \$15 million for the Orting Bridge (SR 162). We also passed my bill for a tax exemption for disabled veterans.

I was disappointed with the outcome of the 2005-07 operating budget. **The cost is too high to sustain, so I voted no.** I have detailed the budget inside this newsletter.

Thanks to the nearly 3,000 people who responded to my February questionnaire. What you told me in this questionnaire greatly helped me to understand your concerns and ideas on issues before the Legislature so I could vote on your behalf.

Now that the session is over for another year, I will have the opportunity to meet with my constituents to discuss what happened in Olympia during the grueling four-month session. I have scheduled Town Hall meetings around the district in the next few weeks. **I hope to see you there!**

Please contact me through my e-mail address or send me a letter about your interests and concerns. I am privileged to serve you in the Washington State House of Representatives.

Sincerely

Representative
Tom Campbell

TOWN HALL MEETINGS

Yelm, Orting, Graham, Eatonville

TIMES & LOCATIONS INSIDE

SATURDAY
June 11
June 18

ANTI-METH BILL BECOMES LAW!

One of the session's greatest – and most difficult – accomplishments was passage of my bill to restrict the over-the-counter sale of products that are essential for the illegal manufacture of methamphetamine.



Pierce County legislators Reps. Tami Green (left) and Dawn Morrell (right) discuss strategy with me on passage of HB 2266, the anti-meth bill I introduced that is now law.

Pierce County is the epicenter of the manufacture of this illegal drug in Washington. Meth labs are mushrooming in neighborhoods everywhere! Not only is the highly addictive drug devastating to the central nervous system of the user, but the manufacture itself creates unimaginable problems for families, neighborhoods and communities.

My bill (HB 2266), signed into law by Gov. Gregoire on May 11, makes it extremely difficult for those who create this insidious drug to obtain the products they need to “cook” meth. The new law requires stores that carry cold medications, such as Sudafed, containing ephedrine, pseudoephedrine or phenylpropanolamine, to place them behind the counter so a clerk will dispense the product. A purchaser must show ID and sign a log book.

Similar legislation became law in Oklahoma last year with dramatic results. The number of illegal meth lab cleanups in that state dropped by 80 percent because those who create this illegal addictive product lost their source of the main ingredients.

Like Washington, Oregon also passed similar legislation this year.

It was a show of good faith when Fred Meyer, Target, and Wal-Mart stores agreed before the bill passed to voluntarily follow the directive of the bills. They showed great cour-

age in stepping up to protect our communities from the scourge of meth.

I also appreciate the strong support we got from the media across Washington in carrying the message of urgency for this law.

I VOTED ‘NO’ ON INCREASED SPENDING IN STATE BUDGET

I voted against the \$26 billion biennial operating budget that was approved by the Legislature because it required a 12-percent increase in spending at a time when our state's economy is just starting to see improvement.

I was disappointed that the Legislature took away the spending limit created by Initiative 601, also the required two thirds majority vote on any tax increase.

I was in the Legislature in 1993 when the state went through a similar process of spending above our revenue. That led to the citizen initiative (Initiative 601) which made it more difficult to increase spending.

I supported I-601 then because it set reasonable spending limits for future Legislatures. I support the concept today.

There were many things in the budget that I agree with. It is excellent for health care and for kids. I especially appreciate what it will do for mental health care. **But, a budget increase of 12 percent is unsustainable.** I see a dark cloud as we now cross this line of excessive spending.

BOTTOM LINE:

SAFETY, CONGESTION RELIEF, ECONOMIC GROWTH DECIDING FACTOR IN ‘YES’ VOTE ON TRANSPORTATION

Perhaps the “yes” vote I cast on the two-year transportation budget was the most difficult vote I’ve cast in my 10 sessions in the Legislature. I didn’t take lightly the added gas tax necessary to fix the growing problems in our transportation system. But when all was said and done, I voted for the package.

I have worked in the House Transportation Committee for the last two sessions to accomplish four goals: 1) Accountability with true performance audits; 2) The Secretary of Transportation be appointed by the Governor so there is a line of accountability; 3) The Transpor-

tation Commission not have power to remove or change the project list or de-fund projects; and 4) We have tolling authority for mega projects like Seattle’s 520 Bridge.

This Legislature achieved all these requirements, so I voted to step up to the problem of improving our roads and highways, after decades of deliberate dereliction of this responsibility by previous legislatures and governors.

A very big consideration when I voted was that the budget includes a much better return of the taxpayer’s money to Pierce County. We have many critical projects included to increase road capacity and expand economic growth, such as Port of Tacoma improvements to move freight and provide good jobs.

In 2003, I voted “no” on the transportation budget because all the factors above were not included. I now feel the needed reforms, spending priorities and accountability are present in this budget, so it was possible for me to support the bill and its accompanying gas tax for the good of my district and the good of the state of Washington.

TRANSPORTATION NEEDS IN DISTRICT GAIN \$133 MILLION!

We made great gains in the transportation budget with passage of a number of projects vital to our district. As a member of the House Transportation Committee, I worked very hard to get major funding for the Cross-Base Highway, Yelm Loop Road, the Orting Bridge and other projects, to the tune of \$133 million!

CROSS-BASE PROJECT

I secured \$15 million for the Cross-Base Highway, which will be an incredible benefit to the 2nd District.

The four-lane, six-mile highway across Fort Lewis will connect Interstate 5 at the Thorne Lane interchange to the Mountain Highway (SR 7) via 176th St South in Spanaway.

It will provide a necessary link in the regional transportation system by connecting existing and future residential areas in mid-Pierce County and North Thurston County with two of the planned employment sites in Pierce County – Frederickson and DuPont.

The roadway will reduce projected traffic volumes and congestion, particularly during peak periods on existing roadways, including SR7, SR 512, SR 507, and Spanaway Loop Road

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South. If the Cross-Base Highway was not in the planning stages now, these roadways would exceed their capacity by the year 2025.

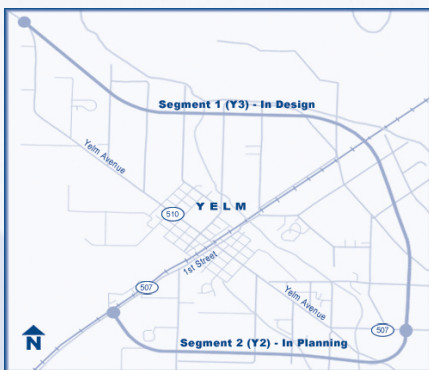
State Route 704-Cross Base map:



YELM LOOP ROAD

Another major accomplishment for our district is \$33 million I was able to secure in the transportation budget to begin the first phase of the four-mile, three-lane highway that will loop around the Yelm city center, connecting State Routes 507 and 510. Yelm is Thurston County's fastest growing community. This will greatly alleviate growing traffic problems by directing traffic around the city center.

Yelm Loop map:



ORTING BRIDGE

We also got \$15 million for a replacement bridge over the Puyallup River (SR 162) at Orting. This bridge is critical to handle the growing traffic in the area and to allow for immediate evacuation of Orting in the event – God forbid – of an eruption of Mount Rainier. This project will greatly improve mobility and expand road capacity on SR 162. The existing bridge will be retained as a walking bridge.

ELBE REST STOP

The Elbe Rest Stop has been on the books for years. The town of Elbe really needs a rest stop to encourage Mount Rainier visitors to ex-

tend their stay, to help the local economy.

MY VETERANS' TAX EXEMPTION BILL SIGNED INTO LAW

It was a great day for all veterans when



Gov. Gregoire signs my bill to bring property tax relief to disabled veterans. The signing took place at the Winged Victory Memorial on the Capitol Campus as dozens of veterans join in.

Gov. Gregoire signed House Bill 1019. This gives disabled veterans an important tax exemption. I've worked on the bill for five years!

Veterans of the Armed Forces with 100-percent service-connected disability and who have an income below \$25,000 will receive the same property tax relief as is now provided senior citizens.

Military disability income is no longer included in the "combined disposable income" when determining eligibility for senior citizens' and disabled persons' property tax relief.

I was disappointed that the Senate set the "under \$25,000 income limit," and I will work to fix that provision in future sessions.

DISTRICT PROJECTS IN CAPITAL BUDGET

Several important 2nd District projects received funding in the Capital Budget.

BRIDGE FOR KIDS

The Bridge for Kids over the Carbon River in Orting is another vital project. Since Orting is situated between the Carbon River and the

Puyallup River, the only way out of town is over bridges crossing the two rivers. The foot-bridge across the Carbon River is intended to provide school children with easy access to higher ground in the case of a volcanic eruption.

We were successful in getting \$850,000 for the bridge in the Capital Budget and an additional \$850,000 in the Transportation Budget.

I've worked with community leaders for several years and I'm proud of what we accomplished. It should be operational in about two years.

YOUTH CENTER/ DROP-IN CENTER

I worked to include \$400,000 for the Youth Center/Drop-in Center to serve homeless youth in the Spanaway and Parkland areas. This important project provides resources, but leaves it to Youth Resources in Spanaway, partnering with Pierce County, to put those resources to work.

EATONVILLE WATER FILTRATION SYSTEM

The budget includes \$807,500 for Eatonville water filtration. This project will provide "state of the art" filter banks to remove contaminants from the surface water sources, and guarantee clean drinking water for residents of Eatonville.

EATONVILLE PARK

\$50,000 for initial development of a State Park in Eatonville.

ELECTION REFORM BILL DOESN'T GO FAR ENOUGH

I was disappointed that the Senate refused to move this state's primary elections to an earlier date in the final election reform bill that passed this session. **I believe an earlier primary is vital to members of the Armed Forces around the world who have the right to be heard.** I also support requiring photo ID at the polls

I do believe the final bill is a good first step, but we can do much better in election reform, and I look forward to working in future sessions to institute additional election reforms.

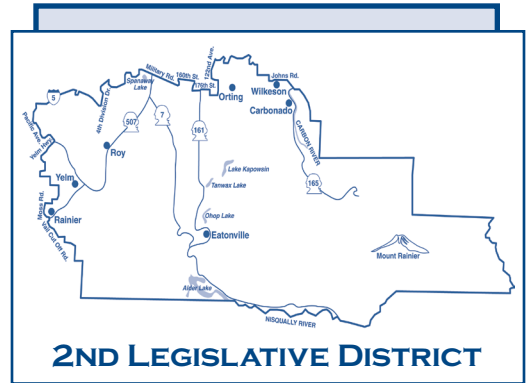
I voted against the election bill that requires mail-in ballots which, in many cases, will prevent counties from operating a walk-in polling place for those who like to cast their vote in person. Taking that step is a mistake.

2005 QUESTIONNAIRE - HOW YOU VOTED!

Nearly 3,000 households took time to respond to share your views on issues before the Legislature. Thank you.

Here are the results:

- 1 **Raising taxes:** 38% said reduce services, but don't raise taxes; 25% said they'd prefer tax increases over cutting services; 19% agreed to some higher taxes, but mostly service cuts; while 18% agreed to some service reductions but mostly higher taxes.
- 2 **On which taxes to increase:** 56% said higher sales taxes on items such as tobacco and alcoholic beverages; 22% said sales tax increase; 17% said an income tax and 5% said property tax.
- 3 **On which services to reduce:** 35% said spending by agencies, such as State Patrol, state courts; Fish & Wildlife; 30% said reduce education.
- 4 **State Employee Salaries:** On the question of the first salary increase for state employees in four years (both union and non-union jobs) 51% said 'yes' and 49% said 'no';
- 5 **Changes to Elections:** Should Washington's September primary be moved a month earlier so ballots can be returned on or before election day? Yes - 63%; No - 54%.
- 6 **Should there be a re-vote for Governor?** Yes: 68%; No 37%.
- 7 **Should smoking be banned** inside all restaurants, taverns, etc.? No - 54%; Yes - 46%.
- 8 **Should smoking be banned** only in places where children are? No: 54%; Yes - 46%.
- 9 **Wal-Mart in Yelm?** Yes - 65%; No - 35%.
- 10 Should employers of 50 or more employees be required to provide **health plans for employees?** Yes: 70%; No: 30%.
- 11 **Gun Ownership:** Leave gun ownership as is: 47%; Ban on private ownership of semi-automatic weapons - 29%; Make gun locks mandatory - 21%; Ban private ownership of handguns - 3%.
- 12 Only security officers or law enforcement officers should have **guns inside the State Capitol:** 67%; Those with concealed weapons permits should be allowed to carry a gun inside the State Capitol - 33%.



TOWN HALL MEETINGS

June 11 - Saturday

10 a.m.-Noon

Yelm Community Center
624 Crystal Springs Rd.

1-3 p.m.

Orting Multi Purpose Room
2002 S. Washington Ave.

4:30-6:30 p.m.

Graham Library
9202 224th St. E.

June 18 - Saturday

10 a.m.-Noon

Eatonville Library
2005 Center St., W.

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